

Ex Radio Caroline jock Neil Francis, now working at Chiltern Radio's Luton studios helped raise £1,000 for the ITV Telethon appeal - Neil acted as passenger for driver Norman Barber in a "death stunt" involving the knocking down of 15 upturned cars, domino fashion at top speed on May 30th.

Whilst Neil is hosting his morning show for listeners in Luton and Dunstable former shipmate David Andrews looks after those in the Bedford and Cambridge area. The Hot Fm has in the past given homes to David Lee Stone from Laser 558, and Paul McKenna one time Radio Caroline and Radio Sovereign DJ who recently left the station to join London's Capital Radio.

Another station giving a home to "retired" offshore broadcasters is Kent's Invicta Radio. The station which already boasts Roger Day and Peter Phillips has recently taken on Johnny Lewis following his stint with Radio Wyvern, and amidst rumours that he may have returned to the Ross Revenge. Johnny is presenting Invicta's early afternoon show during the week, and a Saturday afternoon show. Johnny also continues to show Anorak tendencies on a recent show he telephoned Peter Phillips to help judge a competition, the following five minutes then included mentions for Raffles the Dog, Caroline, Abie Nathan, The Voice of Peace and Laser!

Unlike many ILR stations who seem to be doing their best to poach each other's areas Invicta is making a point of sticking to its Kent boundaries for listener's dedications and competitions. Spoilsports. The voice of Peter Phillips can also be heard on many Commercials.

Solved at last! The real reason why Laser 558 dropped its Newscasts, they lost the jingle, after all following 2 jingle cassettes and one Documentary LP all which remains of the original newsbacking is an off air recording on the Laser 558 story. Anybody know where a copy can be found?

Radio Radio, the Satellite delivered Radio service, which is so popular it has managed to secure one whole advertising contract (with the Midland Bank) may not be as large as it would like to appear. The studios currently being used are borrowed from the BFBS in London, and as for the telephones, there only seems to be one or two lines. Radio Nova meanwhile, who have fewer ILR adverts are sounding very well with plenty of commercials. The reason why Radio Radio has the preference with many ILR stations has to be something to do with the fact that in due course 50% of the company will be owned by stations in the ILR network. As for Radio Luxembourg, they too have offered a sustaining service to ILR stations, providing entirely separate programming to that offered on the Great 2-0-8. Unfortunately they will not be starting just yet. They need to secure 5 stations before their project becomes viable. So far they do not have any.

Apologies to Radio Caroline DJ Paul Graham. We misquoted Paul's age in an earlier issue. Paul was actually 35 this month (August) Happy Birthday from the Wavelength team.

There were celebrations into the night at Ballycotton, County Cork on August 3rd following the marriage of Ian Biggar to Grainne Walsh. Ian and Grainne are both former employees of Cork's ERI (Ian was on air under the name of Stuart Scott) and at one time it looked as if the Wedding could be a preview of Communicate '88! Besides Ian and Grainne's immediate family there was Owen Barry (The Best Man) Jack Russell of WMR who arrived dressed in a Kilt borrowed for the occasion and Steve West and Adrian Cooke of Wavelength, not forgetting Ruth Johnston and Gary Hogg from Anoraks UK. Best wishes to Grainne and Ian for the future from all at Wavelength.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1988

No.23

The LASER558 Story

DOCUMENTARY
DOUBLE
LP



NARRATED BY CHARLIE WOLF

Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.

WAVELENGTH

August/September 1988 - Number Twenty-Three.

WAVELENGTH EDITOR: Adrian Cooke.

FEATURE WRITERS: Andy Walker, Steve West, Mike Ross and John Hickling.

REPORTERS: Rodney R. Sixe and Allen Dean.

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FRONT ILLUSTRATION: The Laser 558 Story - LP Cover
Confessions of an Anorak appears next issue

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

YEARS SUBSCRIPTION: United Kingdom £4.00, Europe, including Ireland - £4.30
/18 International Reply Coupons, Rest of the World £4.90/ 20 International Reply Coupons.

SINGLE COPIES: United Kingdom 65p, Europe, including Ireland and the Rest of the World 3 International Reply Coupons.

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Andy Walker

It's another religious Short Wave station this time around, HCJB - Herald Christ Jesus Broadcasting which transmits from Quito in Ecuador. HCJB broadcasts in twelve languages for a total of 100 programme-hours daily. The most informative and interesting programme is the Dx Party Line which is beamed to the UK on Monday and Saturday nights at 2130 UTC on 16 metres 17790 KHz and Saturday mornings at 0800 UTC on 31 metres 9610 KHz. The programme is presented by Brent Allred, who, after receiving an envelope full of goodies sent me a personal Postcard thanking me for writing to them. Gee thanks Brent! The Dx Party line presents everything a Good Dx show should, with the religious bit fitted nicely in the middle making it part of the programme. Gee, that's Clever Brent! I must say that the broadcast schedule is easy to read with spaces left blank, so you can write your own times next to UTC. There's also a returnable reception report that you can fill in when next writing to the station, plus a questionnaire, which on its return to the station you will receive an HCJB Cloth pennant, Praise the Lord! You also get a station QSL card with a sketched picture on the front and all your personal details on the back. Try and listen to the HCJB Dx Party line - It's a good programme. The station uses 4x 50Kw, 3x 100 kw Shortwave transmitters with good reception in Europe; The station address is;

HCJB
Casilla 691
Quito,
Ecuador.

Keep listening !

M.V. ROSS REVENGE

Saturday June 25th, 1988

With what could possibly be described as the shortest period of shore leave ever Steve Conway, who had left the ship a mere three days earlier returned to the Ross Revenge to present the 0900 programme. He commented that he had just popped ashore for a haircut and to buy a few records! Steve was actually needed back on the ship for some organisational work, and instead of heading for the newsroom slotted into the Breakfast show leaving the following schedule;

0500 Steve Conway
0900 Rob Harrison
1300 Dave Asher
1600 Ian Mack
2000 Dave Asher/Mike Watts
2100 Neil Gates
0100 Andy Bradgate

The news was shared amongst the presentation staff. Steve's swift return to the Ross Revenge took us back to the early days of Caroline 319 from the Ross when Tom Anderson would regularly depart on a Sunday night to return for the Thursday evening! Later in the week Erwin Van der Blieck returned to the ship, and obviously thought it extremely funny if he called himself Ken Smith. Interesting name for a Dutchman. "Ken" programmed from 2100 - 2300 at which time Neil Gates took over through until 0200.

On Friday July 8th announcements were made on the air that Caroline 558 would be moving to a nighttime only service. Two pre-recorded announcements separately voiced by Steve Conway and Ian Mack told us the following.

"You're listening to Caroline 558, due to technical reorganisation, and to bring you a better service on Caroline, plus a brand new station on 819 it's necessary for Caroline to suspend daytime service on 558 for a period of approximately four weeks. After this Caroline will be back. Better, Stronger, Round the Clock, 24 hours a day.

During the next month you can hear a Dutch language music station on 558 from six until six, with Caroline continuing throughout the night. So stay tuned to 558 for the best in 24 hour music radio."

This was backed by the Theme music for the Dutch station, the same tune as had previously been heard during the test transmissions on 819. Initially Caroline had been requested to suspend daytime broadcasts immediately, but due to the suddenness of the change it was agreed that Caroline would have until Saturday to make arrangements to inform the listenership. Therefore it was at 0800 on July 9th that Ian Mack made the handover to the new Dutch station. Ian thanked the staff of Caroline who had worked hard since the collapse of the mast, especially Steve Conway. Rightly so as Steve had hardly been off the ship. An interesting record played before the handover was the recent hit by the Hooters "Satelite". This tied in with information heard on the rumour vine that Satelite equipment had been delivered to the Ross Revenge. At 0800 (UK Time) Erwin Van der Blieck commenced the Dutch language tests. Following the theme tune a sound familiar to listeners of the former Dutch service - Radio Monique - was played, The Satelite hit, a powerplay, the first of which was called "Cold as Ice", this alternates with an Artist of the Week at the top of each hour. Initially IDs were made as 558 AM, and the English weather, and Sea conditions continued on the half hour on a semi regular basis.

The Dutch DJs on board were in addition to Erwin, were Lex and Gerd. News was read up to the hour, again as had been done on Radio Monique. The format is very much in the tradition of Dutch Offshore Radio with a mix of Oldies, Top Forty and traditional Dutch language material.

Ian Mack took us back into English at 1800 that evening. News bulletins were aired at 1800 and 1830 with an additional bulletin at 2400. It was also announced that the Shortwave transmitter normally used for the religious programmes of World Mission Radio would switch to Radio Caroline from 0000 to 0600, enabling a much wider audience to hear the programmes. This was for the first time incorporated into the on the hour announcements. It transpired that a number of staff changes had taken place. Steve Conway and Rob Harrison had both left the ship whilst two brand new members came aboard for the first time. These were Dave Miller and Canadian Judy Murphy. The schedule then read

1800 Ian Mack	News;
2000 Dave Asher	Dave Asher.
2200 Andy Bradgate	
2400 Neil Gates	
0200 Dave Miller	
0400 Judy Murphy	
0600 Return to Radio 558	

Some changes took place on July 20th, which particularly affected the Dutch service. The tests became "Radio 558" complete with a crew change and a complete jingle package identifying the station as "Vacantie Radio" in English Holiday Radio. It has been considered by outsiders that the Dutch service might hold on to the 558 frequency. We feel this unlikely, as we cannot see a station describing itself as Holiday Radio in the middle of November, however all this is assuming that the work on the new mast system is carried out in time. Walter Simmons, Colin Peters, Pete McKenzie, and female Ellie Van Amstel were the new presenters and in addition to the advertisements already being aired further commercials were heard and the log included Texas Cigarettes, who are the backers for much of Radio 558 including an American Top Forty broadcast on Saturdays, Singapore Airlines, Lotto 649 (in English) Various records, and a highly suspect commercial for Coca Cola. Readers may remember the Esso advertisements transmitted by Caroline during the late seventies which were taken directly from the companies Television promotions. Needless to say Esso refused payment when approached. In addition to the Saturday Chart Show a Top 50 appears on Sundays. Drie en Drie (three records played back to back in sets) is featured at 0800 (UK Time) Ellie was responsible for this programme.

On Caroline there were also staff changes and the introduction of Johann Maasbach at 1800 in English and 0530 in Dutch, this meant that the actual music programming of Caroline was reduced once more. With the alteration in the schedules Dave Asher found himself presenting only 1½ hours a day, but he was also acting as producer for the afternoon show on Radio 558. The full revised line up read;

1830 Dave Asher	News;
2000 Mike Watts	Judy Murphy.
2200 Judy Murphy	
0000 Neil Gates	
0200 Andy Bradgate	
0530 Johan Maasbach to Radio 558	

Ian Mack had left the ship, and after only a short time so had Dave Miller. The broadcasting hours and constant line up changes makes it difficult to keep accurate loggings of every minor detail, readers who like the small pieces are recommended Marine Broadcast News which publishes a monthly grid of the station line up and the Anoraks UK Weekly Report.

Further changes on July 28th brought us the return of several familiar voices, some with familiar names!

1830 Michael Grant	
2000 Judy Murphy	News;
2200 Chris Kennedy	Nigel Harris
0000 Nigel Harris	
0200 Neil Gates	
0400 Andy Bradgate	
0530 Johan Maasbach to Radio 558	

Since this line up change there has been a marked change in material played towards AOR: Adult Orientated Rock, which we understand is a direction in which Caroline will be heading once full programming is restored. In addition a festival and leisure guide is now broadcast between 1900 and 2000 covering events mainly in the London area. Since the reduction of hours the 1800 news bulletin has been replaced by one at 1900.

Some excitement took place on August 5th when it was decided to hold a fire drill. The moment chosen happened to be in the middle of a Radio 558 Traffic Flash.

Minor adjustments continued to be made to the line up and this meant from August 8th Chris Kennedy's time on air being reduced to an hour he commented on Tuesday that Judy Murphy already owed him 2 minutes 30 seconds so far that week, he obviously didn't want to lose anything else! What had occurred was Michael Grant extending his show to 2100 at which point Judy took over for the next two hours. Chris got his time the following evening when a crew change enabled him to extend his show from 2100 to 0000. Judy Murphy and Andy Bradgate left on this occasion and Ian Mack returned at 0400. These names remained in the line up until August 17th when Michael Grant left the station, Ian Mack having previously moved to mid evening and taking over the first show of the evening on August 15th (Monday) So from the 17th the schedule read;

1830 Ian Mack	News;
2100 Nigel Harris	Nigel Harris/Ian Mack
0000 Chris Kennedy	
0300 Neil Gates	
0530 Johan Maasbach to Radio 558	

PEOPLE

Judy Murphy from Canada is certainly one of the most professional voices we have heard on Caroline in recent months her poetry readings between record links certainly added an extra dimension to offshore radio history! Judy has been in discussions with the BBC with a view to being hired as a continuity announcer for BBC 2 Television. Judy also provided a Voice over for the forthcoming Reading Rock Festival.

Michael Grant has already had his previous identity revealed elsewhere, he is unmistakably Dave Richards who originally joined the station at Easter 1984 and presented the Breakfast Show. Dave along with Stewart Russell (Now Nigel Harris) can be seen in action on the Day in the Life of Radio Caroline Video. Michael changed his name for "Legal reasons"!

TECHNICAL POINTS

Despite the original promise of a return to full programming after four, and then eight weeks conservative estimates now put the return of 24 hour radio Caroline as being in early October. A similar format is promised together with a new jingle package. The 200 foot mast (which is not actually planned to be the final article) is slowly coming together although at going to press work has not actually started. It was important that the Dutch service get on the air to bring in much needed finance to the Caroline organisation. Plans to bring back Viewpoint have been put back until the return of 819. A consignment of tapes from the religious broadcasters was accidentally lost overboard.

One problem affecting the use of 819 is the BBC's plan to use the channel for their new station Wiltshire Sound.

FM	88	92	96	100	104	108	MHz		
SW	60	65	80	100	130	180	MHz		
MW	54	60	70	80	100	120	140	160	kHz
LW	150	170	190	220	250	270	285	kHz	

Short Wave GREAT BRITAIN

WFRL: WONDERFUL FREE RADIO LONDON (1) had an interview with Caroline DJ and Newsreader Steve Conway during their broadcast on July 10th as part of the regular Tender Trip programme which details recent events in Offshore Radio. The regular 48 metre band frequency remains as 6300, although a 41 metre band channel has been introduced on 7385. On August 14th this became active at 1200 following the closure of 6300 which had earlier suffered co-channel interference from Radio Orion, who normally avoid the channel on the second Sunday. 7385 continued with a Marine Offences Act special, one of many across the band on this important date in Free Radio History. The WFRL tribute included a large portion of Radio London's final hour plus the closures of Radio 270 and Radio Scotland, together with Johnnie Walker and Robbie Dale taking Caroline past midnight again a larger than normal excerpt of these recordings were broadcast, making a pleasant change from the routine. A Free copy of this programme is available in return for a blank 60 minute tape and return postage. WFRL continued until 1500 that afternoon, and some engineering tests were made later in the day.

RADIO APOLLO (1) continue to make regular broadcasts on 6285. Their Mailbox programme is possibly one of the most entertaining amongst Free Radio stations, drawing much of its humour from Apollo's three regular presenters Dave Scott, Mike Davis and Duncan James who all co-host the programme. Apollo were on the air June 26th, and again on August 14th when they chose to do something different, as instead of the Marine Offences tributes which were by now slowly filling the band Apollo was celebrating 500 hours of broadcasting. The commencement of broadcasts from Apollo was on January 31st 1982, and the 500 hours were clocked up at around 1220. Here's to the next 500!

ATLANTA RADIO made one of their occasional broadcasts on July 3rd. regular presenter Mark Stafford was joined on this occasion by Caroline DJ Paul Graham, himself no stranger to the Short Wave bands. Two frequencies were used by Atlanta broadcasting differing programmes. They were 6265 and 6285. (1)

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL (1) continues to broadcast and there are now weekly transmissions from this station. They are normally to be found on both 6310 and 6815, although there have been some variations to this. For example on July 3rd when 6230 was in operation, although this caused some mutual interference to the Radio Rainbow transmitter on the same channel. The Free Radio programme compiled by Neal West continues to be aired on the first Sunday of the month. Presenter Norman Nelson also adds his own comments on current trends in Free Radio, although very often it is a case of preaching to the converted. There sadly is always a group of people in Free Radio who think that they can do what they like. On August 8th Norman commented on John Dean of WLR "Why this Gentleman needs to be heard on more than one channel at a time is beyond our imagination". This was with reference to WLR's growing number of outlets through the Scottish Free Radio Network. On August 20th it was the number of relay stations

which was given the spotlight, as has been done on RECC many times in the past. The argument put forward by Norman was that relay stations, that is the people who actually make the tapes to be broadcast are not a real station in themselves but simply an extension of the transmitter who is actually broadcasting the tapes. Listeners comments on this subject were invited. RECC is a station who are always worth listening to as they go out of their way to provide the listener with something which is distinctively different from the output of many other Free Radio, and licenced broadcasters. Record requests are asked for but it is preferred if the record selection can be at least four years old, On August 14th, as has been done in previous years the station adopted the Callsign Radio London, and amongst the material broadcast included excerpts from the Relaunch of Radio London over some American Radio stations in 1984.

RADIO 48 made one of her irregular broadcasts on August 14th, The DJ noted on the air was Radio Atlanta's Mark Stafford (2+3)

BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL (2+3) continue with a Second Sunday oldies format and Fourth Sunday Music and Free Radio Information service. In addition a test broadcast was carried on August 21st for which reception reports are especially requested.

FREESOUND RADIO (2) are a new United Kingdom station with a Top Forty Format, Free Radio News is also carried. They were noted using 6266 on August 14th, although morse interference does not make the channel a particularly good one.

Other broadcasters from Great Britain over the past two months include Radio Pamela and RTR.

IRELAND

RADIO RAINBOW (4) have now settled into their new frequency of 6231KHz as from July 3rd. They had previously used 6318 following their move from 6240 due to the use of a morse station on that channel. Regular relays continue for Guernsey Sound, Crusin' Solid Gold and WLR. There were some problems for WLR (5) during July as the studio was flooded following local storms, this resulted in the station having to use some makeshift equipment as both mixer and tape decks were damaged. There has also been some problems with the "WLR Hotline". The station only has the use of the number for Sunday mornings and there has been difficulties with a caller who dialled the station in the middle of the night. This did not go down too well as the telephone is located in a shop and had been switched through to the owners house for the evening. The unwanted call at 2am disturbed the young children in the house. A Po Box number may shortly be in use by the station but in the meantime a switch has been made to the Watson Crescent address. The programmes of both Crusin' Solid Gold and WLR have also been transmitted over the 6205 transmitters of Radio Fax on both August 7th and 14th during the Fax test transmissions. However on August 21st separate programming was offered.

The SCOTTISH FREE RADIO NETWORK continue on a number of transmitters and frequencies, the most regular ones in use being 6318, following Radio Rainbow's move to 6230 and 7446. Programmes come from WLR, Crusin' Solid Gold and Radio Scorpio. On August 7th Radio Stella featured on 6318 with a 60s special hosted by Mr. personality, Jock Wilson. The following week Cruisin's Kenny King played us the hits from 1967.

Westside Radio continue regularly on 6280, other stations from Ireland include Premier Radio and Riverside Radio. The technical station Radio Fax has a special feature later in the issue.

EUROPE

There seems to have been a sudden upsurge in Free Radio activity from the European continent.

RADIO BLOND PIRATE (6) has become a regular voice on 6270, and on August 21st he was joined by a new station under the name of RADIO SCOTLAND (7). As the Scottish Free Radio Network actually transmits from Ireland there seems to be little harm in one from the Netherlands calling themselves Radio Scotland. The operator of this station has previously been heard on the medium wave band as part of a number of Dutch operators who use 1611 kHz late in the evenings.

ADDRESS BOOK

1. Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU.
2. 32 Victoria Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 3NG
3. Postbus 19074, 3501 DB, Utrecht, The Netherlands
4. 151 Moneymore, Drogheda, County Louth, Ireland,
5. 100 Watson Crescent, Peterhead, Scotland.
6. Postbus 669, 7900 AR Hoogeveen, The Netherlands.
7. Postbus 85, Beilen, The Netherlands.

LISTENER'S GUIDE

TABLE OF REGULAR FREE RADIO BROADCASTERS

6205	Radio Fax	IRL	Daily
6215	World Mission Radio / Radio Caroline International	Waters	Daily
6230	Radio Rainbow (including relays)	IRL	Every Sunday
6280	Westside Radio (including relays)	IRL	Every Sunday
6290	Radio Orion	GB	2nd Sunday
6295	Radio Krystel	GB	4th Sunday
6300	Radio Orion	GB	Every Sunday (except 2nd Sunday)
	WFRL: Wonderful Free Radio London	GB	2nd Sunday
6304	BRI: Britain Radio International	GB	2nd and 4th Sundays
6310	Radio East Coast Commercial	GB	Every Sunday
6318	Scottish Free Radio Network	IRL	Every Sunday
6815	Radio East Coast Commercial	GB	Every Sunday
7446	Scottish Free Radio Network	IRL	Most Sundays.
Other regular stations with no fixed schedule/Frequency			
6257	RTR	GB	
6285	Radio Apollo	GB	
	Free Radio Service Holland	NL	3rd Sunday.

LONDON

Andy Walker

No sooner one issue of Wavelength comes out I'm putting pen to paper once again to bring you more hot news and inside gossip of the sometimes wacky world of Pirate Radio here in London. I must say that it is great to have a station on AM again, broadcasting over the city's pirate airwaves, Swinging Radio England on 1611kHz. At the time of writing the station is off air because it believes the DTI are trying to track them down, and put them off the air permanently. Surely Not? The station plays some very good music, most seems to be the old type of soul music called Northern Soul. Most of the jocks seem to be from out of town, with northern accents? SRE may have some problems when they return, because as I write Radio Fax is on 1611 kHz pumping out "Lotsawatts" from Co.Meath in Ireland with a loop tape, pity its not changed every two days or so, because I'm fed up with listening to it and as I've got an on-off switch on my receiver, I'm going to use it (click). I must say good luck and all the best to Radio Fax with their project. How long will it last though? Lets go on to the FM band, and what do I hear? Soul music, How unusual! Yes the capital's FM stations are still blasting out Soul music everywhere.

TKO 102.4 returned to the airwaves on August 6th after almost two months off the air, but they got busted again of course. But there's more - News reached me in the weekend August 12th that TKO are closing down at the end of September, Why? Due to heavy raids on the station they are throwing in the towel, Ah well, Never mind. London's oldest soul outfit LWR are only on the air nightimes and weekends, this cut back in hours is also due to the heavy raids. It may seem that the DTI are winning the battle, but this is not so. Many stations soldier on with 7 days/24 hours, SKY, ROCK TO ROCK FRESH, TIME etc. I must say, Full credit goes to LONDON CREEK RADIO, who always seem to bounce back after raids and have done so for the past four years. The big Weekender KISS FM, still the best, keep up the good work with their broadcasts and also the most viewed pirate on TV. They were on the box again a few weeks ago. I must say the close second SOLAR RADIO doesn't come into my area very well these days since they moved their Tx sites to the East End. The DTI list of raids on stations was recently published in the British Dx Club Newsletter listing from 1984 - 88 station names and how many times they were raided. Ill fated Oldies station NMR was listed. One raid in 1987 and 1 in 1988, so at last we know what happened to our transmitter. I thought that workmen might have removed it but the DTI went and took it, without it even being on the air. Now that's not fair is it?

Finally some gossip. Imagine two ladies driving home on a Friday night after an evening out, when their car runs out of petrol. While pushing down the road a car stops and a black gentleman offers to help them out. The owner of the car gives him £2 so he can get them some petrol. On returning with the petrol he tells the two ladies that he's a DJ on LWR and says that he will play them a record on his Sunday night show. After filling up the car for them, and saying goodbye, The LWR jock finds that his car has also run out of petrol! The two girls are asked if they will return the favour, Yes of course they would. That's what they told him! With his £2 in their purse off they drive, never to be seen again! How low can you go? I must add that they didn't hear his show on the Sunday night, and maybe it was a good job that they didn't! The Bitch sisters beware, someones looking for you. Until the next time, I'm making sure I've got a full tank of go-go juice.

NORTH WEST

RADIO MERSEY WAVES: Although they have had a few problems of late the station is still operating from Friday to Monday from around 0700 until early the following morning. The frequency remains 1242 kHz and the address is 126 Curlew Way, Moreton, Merseyside, L46 7SS

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO: This station has returned as expected on their old channel of 102.6. Operating Saturdays and Sundays from 1000, with an address of 91 New Key Road, Woodchurch, Wirrel, Merseyside, L49 7NE.

RADIO ATLANTIS: After being off air for a short while the station has now returned Saturdays and Sundays on 1197, operating from 1000 to 2200 with Rick Dane doing all the programming at present!

On FM, **RADIO VERONICA** continues on Sundays using 104.75. Due to location problems the stations has once again switched to lunchtime Sunday broadcasts but is hoping to return to the afternoons and evenings shortly. The station's equipment has been completely overhauled and is working all the better, the famous hum has even disappeared now. 81 Lark Lane Liverpool L17 8UP is the address here.

ABC RADIO operating Thursdays on 105, but with no address.

YORKSHIRE

NLV in Keithley returned to the air for a while but is at present off the air. This is due to staffing problems, but the station hopes to return soon with its Monday to Friday service. There is no address at present. The frequency is 104.9

LEEDS: A number of station are still operating from this city. Most regular are PEOPLES FM on 104.7, ABC RADIO on 105.2 and RAPID FM on 105.8

MANCHESTER

Two stations regular of late, both of which are operating daily. Namely WBLS on 102.4 and LASER 103.5

OUTLOOK from Cheshire are still regular each Sunday from 2000 on 96.3, No address is announced by this religious programming station.

SWINGING RADIO ENGLAND

As previously detailed in Andy Walker's London News plans are afoot for a Network of stations around the country with the name Swinging Radio England. The London station has been operating daily from 1400 - 0200 on 1611 kHz with an address of Po Box 314, London N7 8LY. Other stations are expected in Manchester and Liverpool also using medium wave ... and you thought it was going out of fashion.

MIDLANDS

John Hickling

EAST MIDLANDS: NOTTINGHAM

HEATWAVE (HCR) continues to operate daily and its frequency of 105 remained on air throughout the month of June - we can believe that Heatwave is here to stay. Since its first transmissions in mid-January of this year there has been an increase in the variety of programmes and presenters; there is more hip-hop, disco, rap, religious type music, pop etc. All the music heard is by coloured artists like Whitney Houston, Bob Marley, Stevie Wonder, Azward, etc, sometimes presenters play their own discs which they have recorded. There are also a lot of local (coloured) bands featured by the station.

After an apparently major DPI raid the normally 24 hour a day station returned after a four day absence. I believe that the return of Heatwave was around 2300 on July 11th. The signal is as strong and clear as ever.

UNIDENTIFIEDS

On June 14th at 1920 an unidentified station was heard playing tapes of American Rock/Pop stations (including WABA and WLIGHT (Georgia)). The signal was in Stereo on 105.5 Mhz FM and very strong. It is likely that the station was based somewhere in Nottingham or Derby.

Another unidentified broadcast was monitored for just 10 minutes around 105.3 on July 28th at 0010 where the sounds of bagpipe music was clearly audible. A male voice was heard apparently doing a mike check. The transmission soon ended.

WEST MIDLANDS: BIRMINGHAM.

ENTERPRISE FM (91.9 FM Stereo) continues to be the best received 'free station' outside the East Midlands area - its signal often seems to be very powerful.

POWERHOUSE RADIO serving the Black Country and West Midlands, was logged for the first time in Nottingham at 1600 on 09/07/88 with a SINFO of 23342. Even after HCR returned to the air PHR could still be heard slightly above the announced frequency of 105 FM. One DJ noted was Tony James who played several 50s Rock N' Roll tracks by Various Artists. The station plays a wide variety of music - this makes a change from the constant reggae putout in this area.

The station has not been heard since July 29th, probably both HCR and PHR are now back to using the same frequency making it impossible to hear PHR

PROFILE; Heatwave Community Radio

SCHEDULE:	24 hours-a-day, 7 days a week.
FREQUENCY:	105.0 Mhz VHF/FM Stereo (North Nottingham)
ADDRESS:	HCR, c/o The Peoples' Bakery, Radford Road, Radford, Nottingham. Inspiration, 38 Radford Road, Radford, Nottingham, NG7 5FS.
TELEPHONE:	Dedication Line (0860) 328628
STATION TYPE:	Reggae/Soul, serving the large Afro-Caribbean population of Nottingham
PROGRAMMES:	1400 Inspirations: Gospel Music and words of God, presented by 'The Messenger' 2000 Lover's Rock Hour presented by 'Lioness'
STUDIO STAFF:	The Messenger, The Spirit, The President, Shardon, Lioness, Night Rider, Soul Man, Doctor D, Mr Majestic, Dimples, Daddy Crucial, Super Dad, Mr. Notch, Rankin' C, The Main Man, Specialist, Soaker Man.
STUDIO SITE:	Hyson Green
TRANSMITTER SITE:	Hyson Green
POWER (ERP):	100 + Watts
RECEIVING SIGNAL:	Excellent (day and night)
PROMOS/MESSAGES:	"Advertising with Heatwave Community Radio is the most cost effective way of promoting your business" "You're tuned to the greatest radio station there is. . . HEATWAVE on 105 FM." "We're fresh and we're alive, so tune in to us on 105"

(c) FRMSEM (Nottingham) 1988

WFRL; WORLDWIDE

English Short Wave station WFRL has now finalised plans for its International service, which will commence on Saturday 1st October. It will operate as an extension of the current 2nd Sunday service on 48 metres. Programming will be in two hour blocks and consist of a Magazine programme hosted by Andy Walker and Dave the Rave, A Lx programme with Roger Ross, A Rock Show with Tony Wolfe, and a UK Album Chart with Adrian Cooke. The initial schedule reads as follows;

Saturday October 1st, 1988	9970kHz, 31 metres	0000 - 2400 UTC
Sunday October 2nd.	7385kHz, 41 metres	from 0900 UTC
Wednesday October 5th.	12108kHz, 25 metres	0000 - 2400 UTC
Saturday October 8th	11170kHz, 25 metres	0000 - 2400 UTC
Sunday October 9th	6300kHz, 48 metres	1000 - 1200 UTC

Other frequencies likely to be tested in the run up to the launch of the Worldwide service include 11115, 11153, 13740, 15726 and 17500. Reception reports will be welcomed at Po Box 5, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5AU. WFRL commenced broadcasts at Easter 1986.

RADIO FAX

The technical information service which previously broadcast over the Easter holiday weekend has returned to 6205 short wave and 1611 medium wave. Tests initially took place from the studios of ABC Radio in Waterford, Ireland, linking to a nearby mountain top. Recordings of Shortwave station EMR were aired during the weekend of July 23rd. This site however was thought not to be suitable. Another offer was then made to a further station in the Waterford area, however this was turned down so the Radio Fax team moved up to the East Coast area of the country and the studios of Radio Rainbow, the Short wave station from Drogheda, County Louth. It was Radio Rainbow who were responsible for the transmissions of the ill fated Radio Sovereign relaunch last year. Test transmissions for Radio Fax then recommenced and became regular from 0700 to 1900 on Short Wave and then through the night on medium wave. In addition to tapes of continuous music (It was Fax who were responsible for the non stop Dire Straits and Paul Simon music) and later relays of local station Boyneside Radio, Fax have been broadcasting recordings of their Easter transmissions together with listeners' letters resulting from the April programmes.

Announcements promise that full programming from the station will begin towards the autumn as propagation on the Short wave bands improves. However it must be remembered that legislation in Ireland means that all unlicensed operators will be required to go off the air on December 31st, 1988, giving Radio Fax a very short lifespan unless other arrangements can be made. Tapes will be sent from London to the transmission sites from where they will be broadcast. The important objective of Radio Fax is that the signal reaches London, this will be done with very little trouble during the daytime, but night-time reception, without the aid of any special aerials depends very much on clear medium wave conditions. The backers are willing to back finance the station for three months, after which time they expect Radio Fax to be breaking even.

A new address is now announced for the station it is;
Radio Fax, The Forge, Cranleigh, GU6 7BG.
50 pence in UK stamps or 3 international Reply Coupons are requested for a reply, including a CSL Card.

Adrian Cooke

Capturing the hearts of millions of Listeners in Britain and Central Europe, Laser 558 became the most popular Offshore radio station since the 1960s and the story from the beginning is now retold in a double album produced by East Anglian Productions under the familiar Jumbo Records label, which in the past has brought us the Radio Nordsee International Story, and more recently the Radio Caroline Story boxed set. The arrival of the Laser 558 story has been long awaited, and so 2½ years after the demise of "All Europe Radio" I sat down to listen to my review copy.

The record starts with the original version of the Laser 558 song heard on air towards the end of the station's first incarnation, and then moves into the first welcoming announcement as Rick Harris opened the station on May 24th, 1984. The album is narrated by Laser's best loved DJ The Seawolf himself, Charlie Wolf with an echo mike enabling the listener to distinguish Charlie's narration from his contributions as a jock on the Communicator. There are contributions from Paul Rusling, Joe Vogel (Mighty Joe Young), David Lee Stone, Jessie Brandon, John Lewis, Paul Dean, John Catlett, Erin Kelly, Liz West, Tommy Rivers, Robbie Day, Craig Novack, Andy Johnson and Ray Anderson.

Archive recordings of the jocks before they made it to Laser are given as an introduction and what perhaps makes part of the LP is former Chief Executive of Essex Radio, Eddie Blackwell "making a deal" with Paul Rusling to get Laser off the air. As many of us know this failed, and made Blackwell look most embarrassed, following national newspaper coverage. This is detailed in full on the LP. Another of the more interesting accounts is given by Robbie Day, responsible for the American advertising agency which handled many of Laser's contracts. Day described how money had been put up by an American multi-national company who now wanted a return on their investment. No names were given but it was backed by a recording of the "Marlboro Rock across America" intro which was an established part of Laser's early broadcasts. Could we have a missing link here?

The final 50 minutes are given over to Eurosiege, from the first arrival of the dioptric surveyor to the sad end of the Communicator as she sailed into Harwich. There are many recordings from the Eurosiege period which for many people, including myself will bring back many happy memories of a great sound. Included are the Eurosiege reports given out by Laser and the so-called DTI roadshow, the series of press conferences given by the Department of Trade and Industry in an attempt to justify their actions. We also hear the Radio Caroline News Bulletin following the closure of Laser. The album ends with a brief glimpse of Laser Hot Hits, and a special appearance by the janitor, who regularly closed the Charlie Wolf programmes on Laser.

Although The Laser 558 story does not claim to be a complete log of the many events in the short life of Laser 558 some notable points are not covered. What for example happened to Blake Williams and John Lewis after their initial tests on 729kHz? This remains unexplained even when later John Lewis is interviewed again, this time as part of the Radio Caroline staff. There are also no interviews with any of the later staff on Laser the exception here is Craig Novack, but Chuck Cannon, Jay Mack, Jeff Davis and John Leeds almost fail to get any mention.

The story itself is interwoven with various recordings and jingles, some of the latter were not heard on air. It is a shame that this album will for the most part only be heard in the "Anorak Market" for Laser was a station which brought Free Radio back into the public attention and for the sake of millions of ordinary listeners this record should be heard by them.

The Laser 558 Story is distributed by Anoraks UK Po Box 539, Blackpool FY1 4RE. The Cost is £10.99

I suppose it had to happen again: a mere eight months after our last visit to the Emerald Isle we found ourselves heading back for yet more Anorak adventures. This time the number was somewhat reduced to three, but the remaining available space was occupied by the latest toy we were exporting, as well as the inevitable pile of tape decks, radios, cameras etc.

Adrian Cooke had appeared 'Chez West' that Thursday afternoon and immediately we set off for Scotland, with a minor detour to collect the latest part of the Scottish Free Radio Network's Irish operation: this was to be a 250 watt SW tx which we would be taking over much as we did the other tx the previous year. Almost at once we encountered our first problem, the size of the rig: this took up most of the space in the back of the car, leaving little for Jock Wilson (Radio Stella) who would be joining us in Scotland. To give a brief description of the tx, this was composed of three boxes: modulator, tx and power supply. The tx and modulator between them took up most of the back seat with the power supply - itself the size of a small dustbin - occupying the boot with our gear. The transmitting side consists of an EL84 oscillator, 807 driver and 813p.a with 6L6 clamp; the modulator has 6 ECC82s driving 4 matched 807s in push-pull and with an EM87 'magic eye' for mod level indication. The power supply produces 1650v for rf ht, 800v for modulator ht, 300v for oscillator ht and screen and -90v for modulator bias. A description and pictures appear in a future issue.

Sufficient to say that was the beastie we had in the back when we arrived in Scotland the following morning. Since Jock was unable to join us until after work I had detoured again to show Adrian the delights of Weekend Music Radio, where we spent an interesting half day before heading back to Edinburgh to meet Jock. That night was spent recording a test programme for Stella and playing with his satellite TV setup.

Saturday June 27th: Day 1. Because of ridiculous times at which ferries sail we had to leave for the terminal at about 4am only to find when we arrived that we were the first ones there. Nevertheless, by lunchtime we were heading down the motorway from Belfast towards our first stop at Drogheda, hoping that no-one noticed the rather suspicious equipment now carefully buried beneath coats and things in the back of the car. We needn't have worried: as mentioned in the last series of FCMII there is an interesting situation with regard to the border, where the Irish customs post is about a mile or two south of it. Immediately you cross the border (line) there is what is obvious -ly a MW aerial on the right; this is Boyneside Radio's border relay, although it does have opt out programmes, and we pulled in for a look around.

The place seemed deserted so we walked past a carpet warehouse to the back to get a closer look at the aerial and tx and were called by some bloke who appeared from the building wanting to know what we were after. His attitude changed completely when we told him we were anoraks - he'd probably been warned that they were a likely Anorak destination - and he proceeded to show us the studios as well as the tx, located inside the inevitable wooden shed. See previous articles for a description of a typical Boyneside Tx. We also learned that Radio Carousel, who had been in Dundalk at the time of our last visit, had now moved to a Hotel just down the road, so we made that station our next call.

Carousel had obviously not warned the Hotel reception of the peculiar habits of certain listeners as regards wanting to go up to a bedroom and look at a load of radio equipment, or perhaps they had, either way it took five or ten minutes to find a member of the station staff to show us the setup. This consisted of a studio 'desk' with a rather nice 10 channel mixer, two record decks and three cassette decks for jingles/adverts, as well as a few miles of wiring: I don't think the station had been there for long and it still had a temporary air to it.

Leaving that station we continued South to Drogheda and Boyneside Radio, where we enquired after Headie Eddie, who hopefully, would have found a home for our wandering tx. The TX? Well, up until the time we had come over we hadn't got a site to put it, and were hoping that we could find somewhere before we returned, failing which it would be left with a friend while something was sorted out. Having seen Kieran Murray and the station we headed back out of town to Eddie's place to see about this site: still no luck, but while we were there he showed us the Sovereign MW outlet. If you can remember back to last year Howard Rose/Crispian St. John etc was trying to revive oldies station Sovereign by relaying it from Ireland on MW, FM and SW. The whole enterprise folded due to a poor choice of frequency low power (1 kW) and lack of money(!). The MW site was located a couple of miles away from Eddie - who ran the SW service on Sundays from his house using the famous ESB-pylon-supported aerial. The tapes were played at the house and linked on FM to the tx site, although there was a 'studio' (disco setup) at the site itself. Having seen the tx the next thing to catch my eye was a large cabinet in one room which turned out to be a former BEC 500w MW tx, now looking somewhat the worse for wear with all its valves and most of the internal wiring missing, though there was still a fair amount of useful parts left and I wondered why Eddie hadn't made some use of it. The answer came when I tried to move the thing: it must have weighed a ton! Although I was offered it free and gratis if I took it away, I didn't think that Adrian and Jock would thank me for kicking them out of the car to make room, so I left it for the day I could return with a three ton lorry!

Time was getting short - we still had to find a place to stay for the night so we left H.E. and headed South again, ending up at a B&B place just outside Drogheda.

Sunday June 28th: Left the B&B with the Landlady telling us to be sure to visit some place called Newgrange - was there a station there? Headed out of town towards Dublin stopping at the Rosnaree Hotel to show the others the tx site and explain the saga of the electrified cat. Through Balbriggan and left to Loughshinny and Community Radio Fingal, to see their 2 807 valve rig.

When we arrived, CRF was off the air and the owner explained that they had merged with another outfit called Pulsar 98 which was in the Shopping Centre in Balbriggan. As a result the MW tx was only used to relay some of the FM programmes or occasionally for local opt outs. After the obligatory round of photos and a close study of the tx we continued into Dublin and soon arrived at North Dublin Community Radio.

Nothing had changed here since the previous visit so I'll omit the description due to lack of space, but we spent about forty minutes driving round the area looking for a park which we were told they were doing an outside broadcast from, but without success. Another detour: This time to Portmarnock and Sunshine Radio, which we were unable to enter as the station had gone onto nighttime programming (it was now early evening) and there was only one person on duty. Mental note to return next day. Back into the City and another B&B, dump gear and around to Prince Terry's to see Westside Radio.

PT's station hadn't changed either and we even managed to persuade him to be photographed complete with eye patch and flag. Perhaps he knew of a possible tx site? Unfortunately not, and there was no chance of him using his location because of other adjacent houses, but we had been given a contact over in Baldoyle who had offered a site and that was on our list for the next day. Finally back to the B&B and prepare for the next day's onslaught. Note to potential Anoraks: between us we had three cassette decks and a four track reel to reel, this meant that we could leave a tape running overnight and fit 24 hours recording on one 3600 ft reel, very useful.

Next Issue: The Site ?, Round the Dublin stations, and what happened to Diamond.